



EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES

SKOPJE - MACEDONIA

Fact Sheet “Ambassador’s Funds for Cultural Preservation”

The Ambassador’s Fund for Cultural Preservation was established by the U.S. Congress in 2001. It is the only U.S. Government program to provide direct grant support to cultural preservation projects in developing countries.

Since its creation, the Fund has demonstrated America’s respect for the world’s cultural heritage by supporting more than 640 cultural preservation projects in more than 100 countries. This accomplishment represents a contribution of nearly \$26 million towards the preservation of cultural heritage worldwide. The fund seeks to assist countries in preserving and maintaining their important national cultural sites, and to demonstrate that the United States of America values the contributions of cultures throughout the world, as part of our common heritage.

The U.S. Embassy has been very successful in soliciting grants under the Ambassador’s Fund for Cultural Preservation. Listed below are the projects supported to date under the Fund:

2001 (\$14,000) - Conservation and restoration of a monumental public building, Stoa, from the 4th century B.C. in the ancient Macedonian town and archaeological site of Vardaski Rid near Gevgelija.

2003 (\$ 15,000) - Archeological excavation of the Roman Forum at Stobi. The city of Stobi, located in Macedonia's Vardar Valley, had its roots in the Archaic Period and grew in prosperity through the 1st to 6th Century.

2004 (\$ 30,000) - Preservation and restoration of the Church of the Holy Savior (Sveti Spas) in Skopje. The Ambassador’s Fund facilitated needed restoration of the roof and walls of the church, one of Macedonia’s most important and widely-visited cultural and historic monuments. The restoration project was carried out under a cost-sharing arrangement with the Ministry of Culture.

2005 (\$ 35,600) - Preservation and Modification of the Turkish Bath (Hamam) into a National Gallery in Tetovo. Under Ottoman rule in Macedonia, Turkish baths such as Tetovo’s Hamam were one of the most important types of public buildings in cities and towns, along with mosques, inns, and bezistens (domed marketplaces). The Tetovo site is a significant surviving remnant of Islamic and Ottoman urban life. The gallery is the first dedicated public space for artistic and cultural exhibitions in Tetovo. The project was carried out under a cost-sharing arrangement with the Ministry of Culture.

2006 (\$ 26,785) - Preservation of the Megalithic Observatory Kokino. A three stage project including the first site preservation management plan in the country, astronomical research, artifact preservation.

2007 (\$ 24,000) - Preservation of early Slavic and Greek manuscripts from the 9th and 10th Century in Ohrid.

2008 (\$ 54,490) - Restoration of the National Gallery Daut Pasin Hamam. The Ambassador’s Fund facilitated needed restoration of the drainage system and walls of the Hamm An, one of Macedonia’s most important and widely-visited cultural and historic monuments which contains some of the most valuable icons in the country, dating from 14th through 20th Century.

2009 (\$ 650,000) - Through the Ambassador’s Fund for Cultural Preservation’s Large Grants Program, this project will support the restoration of the Church of the Holy Mother of God Peribleptos in Ohrid, Macedonia and its frescoes.

2010 (\$ 72,600) - Conservation of Early Christian Frescoes from the Episcopal Basilica at Stobi.

The Public Affairs Section of the American Embassy enjoys close contact with the Institute for Protection of Monuments within the Ministry of Culture. The head of the institute, Mr. Pasko Kuzman and his assistant Kristina Biceva are our principal contacts for coordination. It has been a great pleasure, as well as a priority of Ambassador Reeker, to support the preservation of these treasures, in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture, for the benefit of generations to come.

OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS / EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Str. "Samoilova" Nr.21 1000 Skopje /Telephone (+389) (2) 310 2000, Fax (+389) (2) 310 2499 E-mail: EmbSkoWebM@mt.net.mk